

a second retainer, disposed opposite to said first retainer, said second retainer houses a second spring, the second retainer engaging the second spring at one end of the second spring, and a second disk disposed at another end of said second spring;

wherein said second disk is operative to compress said second spring in a first direction toward said second retainer; and

wherein said first disk is operative to compress said first spring in a second direction toward said first retainer, said first direction which is opposite to said second direction.

2. (Amended) A fluid filter comprising:

an inlet for passage of fluid into said filter;

an outlet for passage of fluid leaving said filter;

a filter media disposed between said inlet and said outlet, for filtering said fluid;

a valve body comprising:

a first retainer which houses a first spring, the first retainer engaging the first spring at one end of the first spring and a first disk disposed at another end of said first spring; and

a second retainer, disposed opposite to said first retainer, said second retainer houses a second spring, the second retainer engaging the second spring at one end of the second spring, and a second disk disposed at another end of said second spring; and

an end cap separating said first disk from said second disk;

wherein said second disk is operative to compress said second spring in a first direction toward said second retainer; and

wherein said first disk is operative to compress said first spring in a second direction toward said first retainer, said first direction being opposite to said second direction.

6. (Amended) The fluid filter according to Claim 3, wherein said reverse flow bypass means includes:

a front valve body having a first retainer housing a first spring the first retainer engaging the first spring at one end of the first spring, and a first disk disposed at another end of said first spring; and

an end cap against which said first disk is seated, said end cap having holes in a periphery of said end cap which are sealed by said first disk;

wherein said first disk is operative to compress said first spring, moving said first disk from said end cap and opening up said holes for said fluid to pass through said front valve body to said outlet, bypassing said filter media.

7. (Amended) The fluid filter according to Claim 6, wherein said forward flow bypass means includes:

a rear valve body having a second retainer housing a second spring, the second retainer engaging the second spring at one end of the second spring, and a second disk disposed at another end of said second spring;

wherein said end cap includes a central aperture, and said second disk is disposed against said end cap sealing said central aperture; and

wherein said second disk is operative to compress said second spring, to allow said fluid to pass through said central aperture, through said rear valve body to said outlet, bypassing said filter media.

8. (Amended) The fluid filter according to Claim 3, wherein said second fluid flow path leads from said inlet through a front valve body and through a rear valve body toward said outlet, bypassing said filter media.

12. (Amended) A fluid filter comprising:

a housing defining a chamber, said chamber having an inlet at one end and an outlet at another end, through which fluid passes from said inlet to said outlet;

a filter media disposed between said inlet and said outlet, which filters said fluid;

a front valve body having a first retainer housing a first spring, the first retainer engaging the first spring at one end of the first spring, and a first disk disposed at another end of said first spring;

an end cap against which said first disk is seated, said end cap having holes in a periphery of said end cap which are sealed by said first disk, and said end cap having a central aperture;

a rear valve body having a second retainer housing a second spring, the second retainer engaging the second spring at one end of the second spring, and a second disk disposed at another end of said second spring, said second disk sealing said central aperture of said end cap; and

a stabilizing spring disposed between said first retainer and said housing within said chamber, to hold said front valve body stably within said chamber;

wherein said first disk is operative to compress said first spring in a first direction, moving said first disk away from said end cap and opening up said holes in said periphery of said end cap, allowing fluid to pass through said holes and said front valve body to exit said filter, bypassing said filter media; and

wherein said second disk is operative to compress said second spring, to allow said fluid to pass through said central aperture of said end cap from said front valve body, through said rear valve body to exit said filter, bypassing said filter media.